

# **Illinois Early Learning Council**

**October 3, 2005**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

160 N. LaSalle, Bilandic Building, Room N-502, Chicago

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Ann Alvarez, Martha Arntson, Barbara Bowman (for Arne Duncan), Constance Brown, Mary Ellen Caron, Martina Casey, Representative Elizabeth Coulson, George Davis, Mark Donahue, Claudia Fabian, Jana Fleming (for Ellen Alberding), Marilu Galan, Phyllis Glink, Vinni Hall, Kay Henderson, Judy Johnson, Mark McHugh (for Richard Jones), Lanita Koster, Maureen Marx, Janet Maruna, Cordelia Meyer, Harriet Meyer, Janice Moenster, Elliot Regenstein, Senator Carol Ronen, Bryan Samuels, Sara Slaughter, Luz Maria Solis, Jerry Stermer, Sheridan Turner, Judy Walker Kendrick, Maria Whelan

**Absent:** Guy Alongi, Lori Baas, Representative Deborah Graham, Senator Don Harmon, James Kaplan, Barry Maram, Samuel Meisels, Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Louanner Peters, Claudia Quigg, Adele Simmons, Leo Smith, Eric Whitaker, Joyce Thomas

- **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Harriet Meyer.

- **Rockford HHS Early Learning Grant**

Judy Johnson and George Davis announced that the Rockford School District received an Early Learning Opportunities Act Grant award for over \$900,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This grant will be used to promote early literacy in early childhood settings throughout Rockford and to support the work of the Rockford Early Learning Council. Maria Whelan noted that numerous partners in Chicago had also applied to HHS for an Early Learning Opportunities Act Grant. After the Council meeting, Chicago was informed that they too would receive a grant award of over \$900,000 to support a variety of early literacy activities in the City of Chicago.

- **Preschool For All Draft Plan Update and the Work Ahead**

Elliot Regenstein thanked Council members for their hard work on the Preschool For All (PFA) draft plan. A final version of the plan has not yet been released by the Governor's Office. However, this is not an indication that the Governor's commitment to the plan is reduced. Rather, the Governor's Office is studying the plan closely. The questions at this point are "how" and "when" the plan will move forward, not "if" it will move forward. In general, the PFA plan is a call for greater resources and targeted spending. We will hear a call from the Governor's Office for more resources for early childhood education in the FY07 state budget process. Elliot encouraged the Council to move forward with those parts of the plan that can be implemented without new funds.

He also noted that the state budget cycle is starting again. The Early Learning Council will not take an advocacy role in the state budget as it moves forward. However, organizations with representation on the Council are free to advocate for priorities in the budget process as entities separate from the Council.

Also, the terms of some Council members are expiring soon. However, members serve on the Council until they are replaced. Unless members are notified that they are being replaced, their Council appointments continue after their terms expire. Members are encouraged to remain involved with the Council.

- **DCFS Early Childhood Initiatives and Plans**

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Director Bryan Samuels made a presentation about his agency's new early childhood initiatives: the *School Readiness Planning Initiative* and the *Strengthening Families Illinois Initiative*. Please see **Attachment I** for a summary of Director Samuels' presentation.

- **Progress To Date On Approved Council Recommendations**

1) FY06 Early Childhood Block Grant Expansion

Kay Henderson reported that the state Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) was expanded by \$30 million in FY06. Chicago Public Schools received 37% of this funding. Overall, expansion funding was directed to 102 programs. Seventy-five are continuing programs (which received ECBG funding in prior years and an increased funding amount in FY06), and 27 are new programs that did not receive ECBG funding prior to FY06. Of the continuing programs, 11 are child care centers, 59 are school districts or Regional Offices of Education, and 5 are other types of grantees. Of the new programs, 10 are child care centers, 12 are school districts or Regional Offices of Education, and 5 are other types of grantees.

Approximately \$4 million was awarded to new early childhood programs serving the communities of Berwyn/Cicero, Aurora, and Elgin. For the coming year, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will encourage ECBG proposals from programs in high-need areas that lack adequate early childhood resources.

2) Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Margie Wallen reported (for Adele Simmons) that Metropolis 2020 has received a grant from the Spencer Foundation to begin the planning process for the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map. The Asset Map, which was a recommendation of every committee of the Council, will provide a range of data to inform program planning and resource allocation processes; raise awareness of available programs among community stakeholders; and improve collaboration at the local level by providing a consistent source of information on programs and services available in a community. The Asset Map planning process will be coordinated by Dianne Rothenberg of the University of Illinois' Children's Research Center and Theresa Hawley for Metropolis 2020.

### 3) Pre-Conference Seminar on Collaboration (Sharing A Vision Conference)

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are co-sponsoring a one-day collaboration seminar on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, prior to the statewide Sharing A Vision Conference. The seminar will include panels highlighting different community collaborations and program collaborations (blended funding models), with time for questions. The seminar will be located in Oakbrook, IL, at the Doubletree (Hyatt) Hotel. The registration deadline is October 10, 2005 (there is no registration fee). Conference sponsors may limit registration so that a variety of groups have an equal opportunity to participate.

- **Committee Recommendations and Issues for Discussion** (Please see **Attachment II** for proposed recommendations )

Harriet Meyer opened the discussion by thanking the Committees for their important work.

#### 1) Quality Committee Recommendations: Family Child Care Provider Participation in Preschool For All

Judy Johnson presented the Quality Committee's recommendations and recommended action steps regarding the participation of licensed family child care providers in Preschool For All (PFA). To examine the issue of family child care provider participation, the Ounce of Prevention Fund convened a Family Child Care Workgroup, which coordinated eight focus groups of family child care providers. Focus groups were hosted by Action For Children (Chicago), the Ounce of Prevention Fund (Chicago), the Illinois Association of Family Child Care (Mt. Greenwood, Chicago), SEIU (Mt. Vernon), and El Valor (Albany Park, Chicago). The Family Child Care Workgroup then synthesized the focus group recommendations for the full Quality Committee.

Key recommended action steps are to:

- Form a new Quality Committee Family Child Care Workgroup to develop more detailed program model options and policies; and
- Work with representatives from DCFS, IDHS, ISBE, Child Care & Development Advisory Council, family child care provider advocacy organizations, and Child Care Resource & Referral Networks to address identified challenges.

In response to the recommendations, Kay Henderson noted that a few program models are currently being funded for the first time, and may not contain an evaluation component yet. She recommended that the Early Learning Council seek funding for program evaluation so that we can implement changes to increase program effectiveness.

Maria Whelan requested that Judy Johnson clarify the family child care program model options. She also noted that Action For Children is currently running a Prekindergarten program in south suburban Cook County which is a "hybrid model" of the proposed PFA program types for family child care providers. In this program, children are picked up from four central geographic

locations, transported to It Takes A Village Preschool, and then transported back to their family child care providers for the remainder of the day. The program currently involves 15 providers. Children spend 10-12 hours of classroom time with a qualified teacher (4 days/week), and also receive regular home visits. Ms. Whelan stated that major challenges have been: 1) program logistics and 2) convincing providers that the program will not be detrimental to their businesses. However, participating providers have actually experienced this program as being a good marketing opportunity for their businesses. Action For Children is working with ISBE to implement a variation of this program in other locations. Ms. Whelan also volunteered to participate in the new Family Child Care Workgroup.

The Council approved the Quality Committee's recommended action steps that focus on continued planning in this area.

### 2) Workforce Development Committee Recommendation: Plan for Establishing New Early Childhood Credentials

Cordelia Meyer and Jan Maruna asked the Council to support a recommendation that the IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development convene a planning process to determine how the early childhood professional development credentials identified in Gateways to Opportunity could be awarded through state government, including cost estimates. The planning process would include representatives from a range of government agencies and other key stakeholders, and a plan for consideration would be presented to the Council no later than July 2006. The career lattice and proposed credentials are designed to provide recognition to encourage practitioners of diverse backgrounds to obtain more education and training.

This recommendation came from the Workforce Committee and the Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC), which identified embedding the proposed credentials within state government as its highest professional development priority for this year. PDAC has done some preliminary planning through their Credentialing Subcommittee, but needs state agency input and expertise to design an effective system. The implementation of Gateways to Opportunity is also a key component of the Workforce Committee's recommendations for Preschool For All.

The recommendation was approved by the Council.

### 3) Executive Committee Policy Statement: Supporting Existing State Birth To Five Programs Through Annual Cost of Living Adjustments

Harriet Meyer asked for the Council's support of the Executive Committee policy statement on the importance of supporting all existing 0-5 programs funded through numerous government agencies through annual cost of living adjustments (COLA). Designed to cover the increased costs of doing business due to inflation, annual COLAs are of vital importance to current Birth to Five program providers administered by a variety of state and federal agencies. The recommendation asks for support for the allocation of resources to cover the increased costs of doing business due to inflation and mandatory salary increases in existing early childhood programs in order to maintain a high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive statewide early

learning system. In addition, the recommendation includes a statement affirming the importance of the proposed child care rate recommendations contained in the December 2004 Child Care Rates Report issued by Illinois Department of Human Services, which were endorsed by the Council on December 6, 2004. These recommendations focus on structural changes necessary to support quality child care services statewide, including differential rates related to age of children and geography of setting, as well as establishing a tiered reimbursement system to provide financial incentives for higher quality services as a critical step toward improving a family's access to – and the quality of – early care and education.

Kay Henderson noted that some school districts have responded to budget constraints by eliminating teachers; many have faced significant staff cuts. Judy Walker Kendrick asked: 1) if this was a temporary recommendation, and 2) which programs are covered by the recommendation. Nancy Shier clarified that this recommendation covers *all* early childhood programs. She added that all early childhood programs, as a policy, should receive a COLA annually. Ms. Shier also clarified that the COLA recommendation is separate from the proposal to increase rates for child care providers (also, the rate increase proposal is specific to the next few years, while the COLA proposal is a recommendation for ongoing, annual adjustments).

Judy Walker Kendrick asked about the estimated cost of the COLA proposal. Harriet Meyer responded that the cost is unknown at this point. Senator Carol Ronen stated that there is a balance that must be struck between expansion of services to increase the number of children served and allocating funds to support existing services. She noted that there is an underlying tension between program expansion and maintaining the quality of existing programs. Kay Henderson responded that two years ago ISBE granted a total of \$4 million in Maintenance of Effort grants to Early Childhood Block Grant programs on a case-by-case basis. She added that in FY06 very few Maintenance of Effort requests have been funded. Ms. Henderson stated that in Maintenance of Effort proposals, programs need to specify what funding will be allocated for Maintenance of Effort (e.g. mandatory teacher raises, rising transportation costs) and what will be spent on program expansion. Senator Ronen responded that ultimately fewer new children might be served if funding is allocated to COLAs or Maintenance of Effort.

Vanessa Rich added that the COLA needs to keep up with the true cost of living. Connie Brown stated that the Urbana school district would not apply to serve new children without some assurance that services could be maintained in future years. Janice Moenster asked for clarification on the difference between a COLA and funding for Maintenance of Effort. Harriet Meyer clarified that a COLA is a standard percentage increase across the board, while Maintenance of Effort grants may vary by program depending on what providers need to maintain last year's service levels.

Maria Whelan stated that it will be difficult to adequately fund the system. She asked whether the COLA recommendation was limited to certain groups. Harriet Meyer clarified that the proposed COLA includes both ISBE and IDHS programs. Ms. Whelan responded that Action For Children is not interested in a COLA because the recommendations contained in the Child Care Rates Report are of higher priority this year.

Harriet Meyer responded that the Executive Committee is asking the Council to approve a position; this is not necessarily related to the budgetary process. Elliot Regenstein agreed that the Executive Committee is asking the Council to approve a position. Representative Elizabeth Coulson stated that, from her perspective as a legislator, the policy statement needs to specify exactly which programs would receive a COLA, and what it would cost. Senator Ronen added that the COLA proposal competes with the PFA proposal to expand early childhood programs.

In response to the questions raised in the Council's discussion, Harriet Meyer stated that the Executive Committee will:

- 1) clarify how the COLA proposal fits into the context of the proposed rate increase for child care providers;
- 2) clarify which programs will be affected by the COLA proposal;
- 3) clarify the estimated cost of the proposal; and
- 4) assess how increased costs associated with the COLA proposal may affect the Council's proposed early childhood program expansion under Preschool For All.

The Council postponed voting on the policy statement until after it receives clarification from the Executive Committee on these issues.

#### 4) Executive Committee: Work to Develop A Recommendation for Adequately Funding Administrative and Indirect Costs in Early Childhood Block Grant Programs

Harriet Meyer introduced the Executive Committee's request to convene a workgroup to develop a recommendation to increase the amount of allowable administrative costs under ISBE's Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG). Currently, administrative costs are limited to 5% of the total program budget and indirect costs are not allowed. School-based providers report that this restriction creates significant hardships; however, it is particularly difficult for community-based providers. ISBE's current rules were developed when school districts administered all early education programs. In the past, PreK programs in school buildings generally did not have to cover overhead costs, and many school districts helped cover administrative support costs. This is not the case for community-based organizations, and even school districts have fewer resources to allocate to early education programs.

Zach Nauth stated that we do not want to put ourselves in a position to pit the expansion of programs against supporting quality in existing programs. He added that, fundamentally, we need to develop new sources of state revenue. Vinni Hall suggested that the Council look at the SES Toolkit, a resource developed for schools who fail to meet adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind. This Toolkit includes a list of allowable administrative costs. Kay Henderson noted that ISBE has guidelines regarding administrative costs; she suggested that the Council examine these guidelines and consider making a recommendation to extend them in particular circumstances. Margie Wallen informed the Council that ISBE had proposed administrative rules for ECBG-funded programs that would codify the 5% limit on administrative costs.

- **Council Approval of Recommendations**

Elliot Regenstein reviewed the four issues on which the Council is seeking recommendations.

1) Quality Committee Recommendations: Family Child Care Provider Participation in Preschool For All

Judy Walker Kendrick requested clarification of the meaning of “approval” of a recommendation. Harriet Meyer responded that “approval” means that the Council approves of the general direction in which the work is going. Specifically, with respect to the Family Child Care Provider recommendations, “approval” does not mean endorsing one program model in particular, but rather supports continued exploration of multiple program model options. Margie Wallen added that “approval” also means supporting the formation of a specific workgroup of the Quality Committee to further explore the integration of family child care providers into Preschool For All. Sara Slaughter moved to approve the recommendation, as clarified by Margie Wallen. All voted in favor of approval.

2) Workforce Development Committee Recommendation: Plan for Establishing New Early Childhood Credentials

Jan Maruna moved to approve the recommendation as written. All voted in favor of approval.

3) Executive Committee Policy Statement: Supporting Existing State Birth To Five Programs Through Annual Cost of Living Adjustments

As described above, this recommendation will be sent back to the Executive Committee in order to:

- 1) clarify how the COLA proposal fits into the context of the proposed rate increase for child care providers;
- 2) clarify which programs will be affected by the COLA proposal;
- 3) clarify the estimated cost of the proposal; and
- 4) assess how increased costs associated with the COLA proposal may affect the Council’s proposed early childhood program expansion under Preschool For All.

As noted above, the Council postponed voting on the policy statement, which was returned to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

4) Executive Committee: Work to Develop A Recommendation for Adequately Funding Administrative and Indirect Costs in Early Childhood Block Grant Programs

Judy Johnson moved to convene a workgroup to examine funding of administrative and indirect costs in early childhood programs. All voted in favor of approval.

- **Adoption of Minutes**

Harriet Meyer asked that the Council approve minutes from the previous meeting. Jerry Stermer moved to approve the April 29, 2005 Early Learning Council minutes, and it passed by unanimous vote.

- **Update on Statutory Changes In The 0-3 Prevention Initiative Program**

Karen Yarbrough updated the Council on statutory changes in the 0-3 Prevention Initiative program which were signed into law in August 2005. As a result of this legislation, beginning July 1, 2006, all Block Grant programs serving expecting parents and families with at-risk infants and toddlers, except Parental Training programs funded prior to FY07, will offer voluntary, intensive, research-based, and comprehensive prevention services, as defined by the State Board of Education. The 0-3 Workgroup of the Quality Committee recommended research-based models that are widely known and used in Illinois, including Early Head Start, Healthy Families, Parents As Teachers and Baby Talk, three of which currently receive some ECBG funding. Please see **Attachment III: New Prevention Initiative Statute** for a summary of the statutory changes.

- **Adjournment**

Harriet Meyer adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm.

- **Upcoming Early Learning Council Meetings**

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, 11:00am – 1:00pm.



## **Attachment I: Summary of DCFS Presentation**

Currently, there are approximately 17,700 children in DCFS care in Illinois (down from 50,000 in prior years). The statewide average caseload size has been reduced to 15:1 (fifteen children per caseworker). With this reduced caseload, DCFS is in a good position to address the quality of services. This includes a focus on educational outcomes, which is relatively new for DCFS. DCFS now tries to keep children in the same school when making placement decisions. DCFS will direct its private contract agencies (which serve 70% of wards) to consider educational stability in placement decisions beginning next year.

DCFS takes a “lifetime approach” to care. This approach includes reaffirming DCFS’ role as a surrogate parent, identifying and treating trauma at an early stage, anticipating child development needs, recognizing emotional attachments to biological families, focusing on well-being outcomes, establishing a foundation for healthy adulthood, and building bridges to community. DCFS is working toward these goals through two strategies: the *School Readiness Planning Initiative* and the *Strengthening Families Illinois Initiative*.

The goal of the *School Readiness Initiative* is to prepare all children in the DCFS system for school. Specifically, DCFS aims to have all 3 to 5-year olds in its care (approximately 3,000 children statewide) enrolled in quality preschool (center-based early care and education programs) by September 2006. Further, DCFS aims to ensure educational stability by making sure that children remain in the same early childhood program throughout each school year. As part of this initiative, DCFS (Bryan Samuels) and the Ounce of Prevention Fund (Harriet Meyer) will co-convene a planning group to recommend best practices for children ages birth to three.

*Strengthening Families Illinois*, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation, brings together the early childhood and welfare systems to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening protective factors. These factors, which make children less vulnerable to abuse and neglect, include: parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, positive social connections, access to help in times of crisis, and children’s social and emotional well-being. *Strengthening Families Illinois* operates through local learning networks involving 50 child care centers at five pilot sites statewide. Ultimately, DCFS predicts that *Strengthening Families Illinois* will decrease the number of children in the child welfare system and improve the quality of programs and services for *all* children. Also, focusing on early childhood interventions may prevent problems later in life for older wards.

## **Attachment II: Committee Recommendations for Consideration**

### **APPROVED: Quality Committee Recommendations on Family Child Care Participation in Preschool For All**

The following recommendations were developed by the Illinois Early Learning Council’s Quality Committee regarding family child care provider participation in Preschool For All (PFA).

### Recommendations :

1. To ensure that children cared for in family child care homes can participate in Preschool For All, begin the rollout by soliciting proposals from associations or networks of family child care providers.
2. Explore the ability to deliver Preschool For All services using a variety of program models, each of which may require different rules and regulations. There are numerous ways that an association/network could provide a Type 04 certified teacher to work with 3-4-year-old children cared for in family child care homes. These program models could be considered collaborations and could be coordinated with the Child Care Collaboration Program.
  - Option A - An association/network could hire a certified teacher to deliver Preschool For All services in one home setting or in a center/school setting to children cared for by numerous providers. In this option, it is likely that at least some children would be transported to a central location. Opportunities for mentoring and assistant teaching would be provided to family child care providers in order to integrate PFA requirements with home-based activities.
  - Option B - Certified teachers could travel to family child care homes, where the family child care providers act as assistants who help to deliver the program in their homes under the guidance of the Type 04 teacher. This option would minimize disruptions in children's daily schedules and the need for numerous transitions and travel arrangements, as well as offer good potential for enhancing the services that family child care providers deliver in their homes outside of PFA program hours.
  - Option C – Explore the possibility of a certified teacher delivering Preschool For All services to all children under age five cared for in a licensed family child care home using a 0-5 curriculum and working in conjunction with the family child care provider.
3. Transportation must be provided for children participating in PFA programs outside of family child care homes. An aide would be required to walk the children to and from the van or bus.
4. Assistants will be very important to program success, not only to provide care for infants and toddlers, but also to enable the family child care provider to work with the certified teacher to access learning/mentoring opportunities. Efforts should be made to work with Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) and/or associations/networks to hire part-time assistants to work with younger children while the family child care provider is involved in the PFA component.
5. Allow flexibility in the hours and days per week and the days per year that family child care homes provide Preschool For All (e.g. all 9-10 months of PFA services to be delivered over 12 months).
6. Evaluate program models to identify successful components.
7. Make available adequate professional development resources so that interested family child care providers can obtain degrees and credentials.
8. Fund associations/networks/CCR&Rs to assist family child care providers to participate in Preschool For All. Funding should be targeted to increase association/network participation, provide technical assistance for completing RFP applications, and provide training on PFA curriculum, standards, and monitoring.

9. With the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), create and disseminate clear policies on DCFS licensing compliance for family child care providers participating in PFA.
10. With IDHS, create and disseminate clear policies on reimbursement and border state provider inclusion in PFA.
11. Explore strategies that address insurance liability issues related to transportation and PFA provision.

APPROVED: Workforce Development Committee Recommendation: A plan for establishing new early childhood credentials

The Workforce Development Committee recommends that the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Bureau of Child Care and Development convene a planning process to determine how the early childhood professional development credentials identified in Gateways to Opportunity could be awarded through state government, including cost estimates. The planning process should include representatives from government agencies and other key stakeholders, including the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and IDHS Bureaus of Early Intervention and Community Health & Prevention, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services, the Professional Development Advisory Committee, and the Workforce Development Committee. A plan for consideration should be presented to the Council no later than July 2006.

REFERRED BACK TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Policy Statement: Supporting existing state Birth to Five programs through annual cost of living adjustments

Annual cost of living adjustments (COLA), designed to cover the increased costs of doing business due to inflation, are of vital importance to current Birth to Five program providers administered by a variety of state and federal agencies. Entities that, in partnership with the State of Illinois, provide early care and education, family support, health, nutrition, and human services programs to children under age five and their families are heavily dependent on state funding. Programs such as Head Start, which provides comprehensive services to the state's poorest children, depend on federal funds.

There is a widening gap between the real cost of providing services that are overwhelmingly personnel-intensive and what the state pays for services. The inability to cover rising costs on an annual basis, particularly staff salary and benefit increases, has resulted in actual service reductions and/or serious erosion in the quality of services (e.g. high staff turnover rates, elimination or severe reductions in classroom and instructional supplies, staff development, family support services, transportation, and field trips).

In order to maintain a high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive statewide early learning system, the Illinois Early Learning Council supports the allocation of resources to cover the increased costs of doing business due to inflation and mandatory salary increases in existing early childhood programs.

The Council continues to affirm the importance of the proposed child care rate recommendations contained in the December 2004 Child Care Rates Report issued by Illinois Department of Human Services, which were endorsed by the Council on December 6, 2004. These recommendations focus on structural changes necessary to support quality child care services statewide, including differential rates related to age of children and geography of setting, as well as establishing a tiered reimbursement system to provide financial incentives for higher quality services as a critical step toward improving a family's access to – and the quality of – early care and education.

### **Attachment III: New Prevention Initiative Statute**

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.89) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.89)

Sec. 2-3.89. Programs concerning services to at-risk children and their families.

(a) The State Board of Education may provide grants to eligible entities, as defined by the State Board of Education, to establish programs which offer coordinated services to at-risk infants and toddlers and their families. Each program shall include a parent education program relating to the development and nurturing of infants and toddlers and case management services to coordinate existing services available in the region served by the program. These services shall be provided through the implementation of an individual family service plan. Each program will have a community involvement component to provide coordination in the service system.

(b) The State Board of Education shall administer the programs through the grants to public school districts and other eligible entities. These grants must be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from any other source. School districts and other eligible entities receiving grants pursuant to this Section shall conduct voluntary, intensive, research-based, and comprehensive prevention services, as defined by the State Board of Education, for expecting parents and families with children from birth to age 3 who are at-risk of academic failure. A public school district that receives a grant under this Section may subcontract with other eligible entities.

(c) The State Board of Education shall report to the General Assembly by July 1, 2006 and every 2 years thereafter on the status of programs funded under this Section, including without limitation characteristics of participants, services delivered, program models used, unmet needs, and results of the programs funded.